The Cardinal Wiseman School
A-Level courses

PSYCHOLOGY

Entry Requirements:

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a level 6 in English Language and a level 4 in Mathematics. A level 5 in Combined Science or Biology would be preferable.

What will I study?

Psychology is a challenging but rewarding subject, it is the study of the human mind and behaviour. The examination board is AQA. The specification allows students to study a number of key contemporary topics. The Y12 course will include the study of **Social Psychology (**why do some people obey/conform and other not?), **Attachment** (What factors affect an infant's biological and mental development?), **Cognitive Psychology** (How can we improve memory and therefore eyewitness testimony?), **Research Methods** (What different methods are used to carry out scientific investigations?), **Biopsychology** (Which part of the brain is responsible for which behaviour?) **and Clinical Psychology** (How do we explain disorders such as OCD and depression? And how do we treat them?).

As the course develops, you will also consider, **Gender** (Is it biological or social/psychological?), **Addiction** (what causes addiction?), **Approaches in Psychology** (Where does psychology come from and where is it going?), **Psychology in Action** (What treatments can be used to help people with mental disorders?) and an in-depth exploration of **Research Methods** (What makes research reliable and valid?).

What are the examination/coursework requirements?

This is a linear course which involves 3 exam papers at the end of Y13. Each last for 2 hours and are worth 33.3% of the A-level course. The questions consist of a mixture of: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions (8m and 16m).

What skills will I develop?

The course will help you develop a number of key skills:

- How to view the world around you from different perspectives
- How to plan and conduct scientific investigations
- How to analyse and interpret data
- Critical reasoning and evaluative skills
- How to better understand the world and people around you

How will this subject help me with my future career?

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Careers in law, public relations, human

resources, marketing, advertising and nursing are just a few occupations that lend themselves well to having a background in Psychology! Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, whether it is in education, sport, industry, policing, a therapist or mental health worker, then this A Level is of direct value. For more information about other Psychology related careers you can read about it all on the British Psychological Society's (BPS) website: www.bps.org.uk.

Who is the course for?

Psychology is the scientific investigation of the mind and behaviour. It is a popular subject that appeals to those who are interested in people, in how people think, act, react and interact.



Myths about Psychology

In Psychology, students do not sit and discuss topics about dreams, analyse body language or use it as a counselling session!

Psychology is regarded as an academic and scientific subject, just like Mathematics and Biology. Students are assessed on their written work and therefore there is a strong emphasis on independent study skills, such as reading around the topic, researching information for lessons and presentations, along with essay writing.

Once you get your results

Sign up for psychology and begin to read about where psychology comes from and what it consists of. This will prepare you well for the years to come.